

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, March 7, 1900.

The House met at 12 o'clock m., and was called to order by the Speaker.

The Chaplain, Rev. HENRY N. COUDEN, D. D., offered the following prayer:

We thank Thee, Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, for that deep, persistent, and ever-abiding faith in Thee which, through all the varied circumstances of life, holds us close to Thee and makes the whole world akin. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another," so that when one member suffers the whole body suffers with it.

For a third time since the convening of Congress, death has entered this Congressional family and taken away one of its members, who, by his long-continued, faithful, efficient, and patriotic service, has been rightly styled "the Father of the House."

Let Thy blessing descend upon these Thy servants, and comfort them in the blessed thought that death, which comes to all from a loving Father, must be a good thing, and help them to emulate all that was pure and noble in him. Put Thy loving arms about the widow and his children, and give them all that peace which comes gently down from heaven to comfort the afflicted, and help us all to look forward in faith to Thee—

That God, which ever lives and loves,
One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off, Divine event,
To which the whole creation moves.

And Thine shall be the praise; in the name of Christ. Amen.
The Journal of the proceedings of yesterday was read and approved.

CONTESTED-ELECTION CASE—ALDRICH VS. ROBBINS.

Mr. MANN. I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House with reference to the debate and vote in the Aldrich-Robbins contested-election case be changed so as to substitute to-morrow in place of to-day.

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I hope that request will be granted.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANN] asks unanimous consent that the order for the treatment of the case of Aldrich vs. Robbins be canceled for to-day and made operative for to-morrow. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

THE FINANCIAL BILL.

Mr. OVERSTREET. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following privileged report.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. OVERSTREET] submits a privileged report, which the Clerk will read.

Mr. OVERSTREET. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the reading of the conference report be dispensed with and that the statement of the House conferees on the bill (H. R. 1) to define and fix the standard of value, maintain the parity of all forms of money issued or coined by the United States, and for other purposes, be read instead.

The statement of the House conferees was read.

Mr. OVERSTREET. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the report and statement be printed in the RECORD and lie upon the Speaker's table.

The SPEAKER. That order will be made.

The conference report is as follows:

The managers on the part of the House of the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 1) to define and fix the standard of value, to maintain the parity of all forms of money issued or coined by the United States, and for other purposes, submit the following written statement in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

The conference committee have agreed upon a substitute for the bill as passed by the House and amended by the Senate.

Under an order of the Senate, February 23, 1900, and of the House, March 5, there has been printed, for the information of the Senate and House of Representatives and of the public, the bill as passed by the House, the amendments of the Senate, and the substitute agreed upon by the conference committee for both the House and Senate measures.

The substitute agreed upon and recommended by the conference committee is in full as follows:

That the dollar consisting of 25.8 grains of gold 0.9 fine, as established by section 3511 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, shall be the standard unit of value, and all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be maintained at a parity of value with this standard, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain such parity.

SEC. 2. That United States notes, and Treasury notes issued under the act of July 14, 1890, when presented to the Treasury for redemption, shall be redeemed in gold coin of the standard fixed in the first section of this act, and in order to secure the prompt and certain redemption of such notes as herein provided it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to set apart in the Treasury a reserve fund of \$150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion, which

fund shall be used for such redemption purposes only, and whenever and as often as any of said notes shall be redeemed from said fund it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to use said notes so redeemed to restore and maintain such reserve fund in the manner following, to wit: First, by exchanging the notes so redeemed for any gold coin in the general fund of the Treasury; second, by accepting deposits of gold coin at the Treasury or at any subtreasury in exchange for the United States notes so redeemed; third, by procuring gold coin by the use of said notes, in accordance with the provisions of section 3700 of the Revised Statutes of the United States. If the Secretary of the Treasury is unable to restore and maintain the gold coin in the reserve fund by the foregoing methods, and the amount of such gold coin and bullion in said fund shall at any time fall below \$100,000,000, then it shall be his duty to restore the same to the maximum sum of \$150,000,000 by borrowing money on the credit of the United States, and for the debt thus incurred to issue and sell coupon or registered bonds of the United States, in such form as he may prescribe, in denominations of \$50 or any multiple thereof, bearing interest at the rate of not exceeding 3 per cent per annum, payable quarterly, such bonds to be payable at the pleasure of the United States after one year from the date of their issue, and to be payable, principal and interest, in gold coin of the present standard value, and to be exempt from the payment of all taxes or duties of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form by or under State, municipal, or local authority; and the gold coin received from the sale of said bonds shall first be covered into the general fund of the Treasury and then exchanged, in the manner hereinbefore provided, for an equal amount of the notes redeemed and held for exchange, and the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, use said notes in exchange for gold, or to purchase or redeem any bonds of the United States, or for any other lawful purpose the public interests may require, except that they shall not be used to meet deficiencies in the current revenues. That United States notes when redeemed in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be reissued, but shall be held in the reserve fund until exchanged for gold, as herein provided; and the gold coin and bullion in the reserve fund, together with the redeemed notes held for use as provided in this section, shall at no time exceed the maximum sum of \$150,000,000.

SEC. 3. That nothing contained in this act shall be construed to affect the legal-tender quality as now provided by law of the silver dollar, or of any other money coined or issued by the United States.

SEC. 4. That there be established in the Treasury Department, as a part of the office of the Treasurer of the United States, divisions to be designated and known as the division of issue and the division of redemption, to which shall be assigned, respectively, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may approve, all records and accounts relating to the issue and redemption of United States notes, gold certificates, silver certificates, and currency certificates. There shall be transferred from the accounts of the general fund of the Treasury of the United States, and taken up on the books of said divisions, respectively, accounts relating to the reserve fund for the redemption of United States notes and Treasury notes, the gold coin held against outstanding gold certificates, the United States notes held against outstanding currency certificates, and the silver dollars held against outstanding silver certificates, and each of the funds represented by these accounts shall be used for the redemption of the notes and certificates for which they are respectively pledged, and shall be used for no other purpose, the same being held as trust funds.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, as fast as standard silver dollars are coined under the provisions of the acts of July 14, 1890, and June 13, 1898, from bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, to retire and cancel an equal amount of Treasury notes whenever received into the Treasury, either by exchange in accordance with the provisions of this act or in the ordinary course of business, and upon the cancellation of Treasury notes silver certificates shall be issued against the silver dollars so coined.

SEC. 6. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to receive deposits of gold coin with the Treasurer or any assistant treasurer of the United States in sums of not less than \$20, and to issue gold certificates therefor in denominations of not less than \$20, and the coin so deposited shall be retained in the Treasury and held for the payment of such certificates on demand, and used for no other purpose. Such certificates shall be receivable for customs, taxes, and all public dues, and when so received may be reissued, and when held by any national banking association may be counted as a part of its lawful reserve: *Provided*, That whenever and so long as the gold coin held in the reserve fund in the Treasury for the redemption of United States notes and Treasury notes shall fall and remain below \$100,000,000 the authority to issue certificates as herein provided shall be suspended: *And provided further*, That whenever and so long as the aggregate amount of United States notes and silver certificates in the general fund of the Treasury shall exceed \$60,000,000 the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, suspend the issue of the certificates herein provided for: *And provided further*, That of the amount of such outstanding certificates one-fourth at least shall be in denominations of \$50 or less: *And provided further*, That the Secretary of the Treasury may, in his discretion, issue such certificates in denominations of \$10,000, payable to order. And section 5193 of the Revised Statutes of the United States is hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. That hereafter silver certificates shall be issued only of denominations of \$10 and under, except that not exceeding 10 per cent of the total volume of said certificates, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, may be issued in denominations of \$20, \$50, and \$100; and silver certificates of higher denomination than \$10, except as herein provided, shall, whenever received at the Treasury or redeemed, be retired and canceled, and certificates of denominations of \$10 or less shall be substituted therefor, and after such substitution, in whole or in part, a like volume of United States notes of less denomination than \$10 shall from time to time be retired and canceled, and notes of denominations of \$10 and upward shall be reissued in substitution therefor, with like qualities and restrictions as those retired and canceled.

SEC. 8. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to use, at his discretion, any silver bullion in the Treasury of the United States purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, for coinage into such denominations of subsidiary silver coin as may be necessary to meet the public requirements for such coin: *Provided*, That the amount of subsidiary silver coin outstanding shall not at any time exceed in the aggregate \$100,000,000. Whenever any silver bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, shall be used in the coinage of subsidiary silver coin, an amount of Treasury notes issued under said act equal to the cost of the bullion contained in such coin shall be canceled and not reissued.

SEC. 9. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to cause all worn and uncurrent subsidiary silver coin of the United States now in the Treasury, and hereafter received, to be recoined, and to reimburse the Treasurer of the United States for the difference between the nominal or face value of such coin and the amount the same will produce in new coin from any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 10. That section 5138 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 5138. No association shall be organized with a less capital than

\$100,000, except that banks with a capital of not less than \$50,000 may, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, be organized in any place the population of which does not exceed 8,000 inhabitants, and except that banks with a capital of not less than \$25,000 may, with the sanction of the Secretary of the Treasury, be organized in any place the population of which does not exceed 3,000 inhabitants. No association shall be organized in a city the population of which exceeds 50,000 persons with a capital of less than \$200,000."

SEC. 11. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to receive at the Treasury any of the outstanding bonds of the United States bearing interest at 5 per cent per annum, payable February 1, 1904, and any bonds of the United States bearing interest at 4 per cent per annum, payable July 1, 1907, and any bonds of the United States bearing interest at 3 per cent per annum, payable August 1, 1908, and to issue in exchange therefor an equal amount of coupon or registered bonds of the United States in such form as he may prescribe, in denominations of \$50 or any multiple thereof, bearing interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, payable quarterly, such bonds to be payable at the pleasure of the United States after thirty years from the date of their issue, and said bonds to be payable, principal and interest, in gold coin of the present standard value, and to be exempt from the payment of all taxes or duties of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form by or under State, municipal, or local authority: *Provided*, That such outstanding bonds may be received in exchange at a valuation not greater than their present worth to yield an income of 2 per cent per annum; and in consideration of the reduction of interest effected, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to pay to the holders of the outstanding bonds surrendered for exchange, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum not greater than the difference between their present worth, computed as aforesaid, and their par value, and the payments to be made hereunder shall be held to be payments on account of the sinking fund created by section 3694 of the Revised Statutes: *And provided further*, That the 2 per cent bonds to be issued under the provisions of this act shall be issued at not less than par, and they shall be numbered consecutively in the order of their issue, and when payment is made the last numbers issued shall be first paid, and this order shall be followed until all the bonds are paid, and whenever any of the outstanding bonds are called for payment interest thereon shall cease three months after such call; and there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to effect the exchanges of bonds provided for in this act, a sum not exceeding one-fifth of 1 per cent of the face value of said bonds, to pay the expense of preparing and issuing the same and other expenses incident thereto.

SEC. 12. That upon the deposit with the Treasurer of the United States, by any national banking association, of any bonds of the United States in the manner provided by existing law, such association shall be entitled to receive from the Comptroller of the Currency circulating notes in blank, registered and countersigned as provided by law, equal in amount to the par value of the bonds so deposited; and any national banking association now having bonds on deposit for the security of circulating notes, and upon which an amount of circulating notes has been issued less than the par value of the bonds, shall be entitled, upon due application to the Comptroller of the Currency, to receive additional circulating notes in blank to an amount which will increase the circulating notes held by such association to the par value of the bonds deposited, such additional notes to be held and treated in the same way as circulating notes of national banking associations heretofore issued, and subject to all the provisions of law affecting such notes: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to modify or repeal the provisions of section 5167 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, authorizing the Comptroller of the Currency to require additional deposits of bonds or of lawful money in case the market value of the bonds held to secure the circulating notes shall fall below the par value of the circulating notes outstanding for which such bonds may be deposited as security: *And provided further*, That the circulating notes furnished to national banking associations under the provisions of this act shall be of the denominations prescribed by law, except that no national banking association shall, after the passage of this act, be entitled to receive from the Comptroller of the Currency, or to issue or reissue or place in circulation, more than one-third in amount of its circulating notes of the denomination of \$5: *And provided further*, That the total amount of such notes issued to any such association may equal at any time but shall not exceed the amount at such time of its capital stock actually paid in: *And provided further*, That under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury any national banking association may substitute the 2 per cent bonds issued under the provisions of this act for any of the bonds deposited with the Treasurer to secure circulation or to secure deposits of public money; and so much of an act entitled "An act to enable national banking associations to extend their corporate existence, and for other purposes," approved July 12, 1882, as prohibits any national bank which makes any deposit of lawful money in order to withdraw its circulating notes from receiving any increase of its circulation for the period of six months from the time it made such deposit of lawful money for the purpose aforesaid, is hereby repealed, and all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby repealed.

SEC. 13. That every national banking association having on deposit, as provided by law, bonds of the United States bearing interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum, issued under the provisions of this act, to secure its circulating notes shall pay to the Treasurer of the United States, in the months of January and July, a tax of one-fourth of 1 per cent each half year upon the average amount of such of its notes in circulation as are based upon the deposit of said 2 per cent bonds; and such taxes shall be in lieu of existing taxes on its notes in circulation imposed by section 5214 of the Revised Statutes.

SEC. 14. That the provisions of this act are not intended to preclude the accomplishment of international bimetalism whenever conditions shall make it expedient and practicable to secure the same by concurrent action of the leading commercial nations of the world and at a ratio which shall insure permanence of relative value between gold and silver.

Amend the title so as to read: "An act to define and fix the standard of value, to maintain the parity of all forms of money issued or coined by the United States, to refund the public debt, and for other purposes."

JESSE OVERSTREET,
M. BROSIUS,

Managers on the part of the House.

The statement of the House conferees is as follows:

The effect of the conference agreement is a bill along similar lines adopted in the original House bill, with the exception that the plan for the refunding of the public debt, agreed to by the Senate, has been accepted as a part of the bill submitted by the conference committee. The bill as herewith submitted retains the same arrangement as to subjects as found in the original House bill.

The first change from the House bill is in phraseology and arrangement of section 1. While the House bill originally confined the first section to the definition of the standard of value, the new section embodies with the definition the declaration for the maintenance of parity of all forms of money

issued or coined by the United States, and the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain such parity.

The next change is in section 2, where the provision for payment of interest-bearing obligations is omitted, for the reason that the same result is obtained by the refunding of the public debt into gold-bearing bonds. The provision for the payment of private obligations, in conformity with the gold standard, is also omitted from section 2. The provision in the same section relative to the legal-tender quality of the silver dollar and other money coined or issued by the United States is placed in a new section, designated as section 3.

The next change is the arrangement relative to the gold reserve fund for the redemption of United States notes and Treasury notes. This provision is found in section 4 of the House bill, but is changed to section 2 of the bill agreed upon, and is made a fixed amount of \$150,000,000, instead of one-fourth of the outstanding United States notes and Treasury notes. Provision is also made for replenishing said fund whenever reduced below \$100,000,000. In this change the reserve fund is limited exclusively to the redemption of United States notes and Treasury notes, and the provisions for maintaining said reserve fund are modified by directing specifically that such fund may be replenished by exchange of redeemed notes for gold from the general fund of the Treasury, or by exchange for gold under section 3700, Revised Statutes. A further change in this same section permits the use of United States notes, when redeemed, for the purchase or redemption of any bonds of the United States, or for any other lawful purpose the public interest may require, except that they shall not be used to meet deficiencies in the current revenues.

The next change is in the phraseology of section 3 of the House bill, which is made section 4 of the new bill, relative to divisions of issue and redemption, which changes specifically direct the use of the funds pledged for the redemption of outstanding notes and certificates to the sole purpose of such redemption, said funds being held as trust funds.

The next change is the acceptance of the section in the Senate bill, being section 5 of the bill herewith submitted, providing for the retirement and cancellation of United States Treasury notes whenever received into the Treasury, such cancellation to take effect as standard silver dollars are coined, under the provisions of the acts of July 14, 1890, and June 13, 1893.

The next change is the acceptance of the Senate provision, being section 6 of the bill herewith submitted, authorizing the issue of gold certificates for the deposit of gold coin. The provision in the Senate bill was modified by change of phraseology, limiting the issue of such gold certificates under certain directions of the Secretary of the Treasury. This section also contains provision for the cancellation of United States currency certificates.

Sections 5 and 6 of the House bill are accepted and made sections 8 and 9 of the bill agreed upon, the only change being a limitation of issue of subsidiary coin to \$100,000,000, instead of an unlimited issue permitted by the repeal of the present statute, as was originally provided for in section 6 of the House bill.

The next change is in section 7, which is also section 7 of the bill agreed upon. The original House bill provided for the issue of United States notes in such denominations, not less than \$1, as the Secretary of the Treasury might prescribe, and the issue of silver certificates in denominations only of \$1, \$2, and \$5, and the reconversion of silver certificates of denominations above \$5 into lower denominations. These provisions are so changed that silver certificates shall be issued in denominations of \$10 and under, except that not exceeding in the aggregate 10 per cent of the total volume of silver certificates may be issued in denominations of \$20, \$50, and \$100. All silver certificates of denominations higher than \$10, except the proviso concerning 10 per cent of the aggregate of certificates, shall, when received at the Treasury, be retired and canceled, and certificates of denominations of \$10 or less shall be substituted therefor, and a like volume of United States notes of less denomination than \$10 shall be retired and canceled and notes of denominations of \$10 and upward reissued in substitution therefor.

The next change is the dropping out of sections 8 and 9 of the House bill. These two sections of the House bill made provision for the increase of bank-note circulation to the par value of the bonds deposited, not exceeding, however, the amount of the capital stock paid in, this principle having been embodied in section 12 of the bill agreed upon.

The next change is the dropping out of section 10 of the House bill, which provided for the taxation of franchises of national banks and the repeal of the statute imposing a tax upon bank-note circulation.

The next change is in section 11 of the House bill, whereby the limit of population in a place where a national bank of \$25,000 capital stock may be organized is fixed at 3,000 inhabitants, instead of 2,000 inhabitants, as specified by the House bill. This section becomes section 10 of the bill agreed upon.

Sections 11, 12, and 13 of the bill agreed upon make provision for the refunding of the 5 per cent bonds of 1904, the 4 per cent bonds of 1907, and the 3 per cent bonds of 1908 into 2 per cent gold-bearing bonds. Permission is thereby given to all national banks exchanging any bonds of the above-mentioned classes for the 2 per cent bonds to increase their note circulation to the par value of the bonds, not in excess, however, of the capital stock paid in, and provides, further, that in case of such exchange the tax upon the bank-note circulation of such banks shall be one-fourth of 1 per cent each half year upon the average amount of such of its notes in circulation as are based upon the deposit of said 2 per cent bonds.

Section 14 of the bill agreed upon provides that "this act is not intended to preclude the accomplishment of international bimetalism whenever conditions shall make it expedient and practicable to secure the same by concurrent action of the leading commercial nations of the world and at a ratio which shall insure the permanence of relative value between gold and silver." This section has no legislative effect different from existing law, and is merely declaratory that any future effort in that direction shall not be foreclosed by the enactment of this act.

The title of the bill remains the same as the title of the House bill, except that the words "to refund the public debt" are made a part of the title.

Mr. McRAE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the gentleman from Indiana how much time is likely to be allowed for the discussion of this bill?

Mr. SWANSON. And when is it to be taken up?

Mr. OVERSTREET. That is a matter to be determined. I, on my part, have had exceedingly little demand for time.

Mr. McRAE. When does the gentleman expect to call it up?

Mr. OVERSTREET. That will depend upon the pleasure of the House, but I will say to the gentleman that it will be as soon as possible. I should very much like to have it disposed of to-morrow.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Surely the gentleman will not call it up without notice. There is a contested-election case set down for to-morrow. The gentleman would not call it up without some notice.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I will be very frank with the gentleman and say that I should like to dispose of it to-morrow.

Mr. RICHARDSON. But there is an election contest fixed for to-morrow already.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I do not intend to ask that the consideration of the conference report take the place of the special order which the House has already made.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Then there is another contested-election case to follow this. I should like to know whether the gentleman intends to displace that one, or whether he will wait until both are voted upon.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I will say that if I should call it up to-morrow, it would be immediately after the disposition of the pending contested-election case, which has had the attention of the House now for two or three days.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The gentleman must understand that we desire some time to debate the conference report, and we shall insist upon it.

Mr. OVERSTREET. How much time does the gentleman think that side would desire?

Mr. RICHARDSON. At least four gentlemen have asked me for time to debate it, and it would take some time for those gentlemen to be heard.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I will say to the gentleman that there is nothing new in the measure, excepting the proposition for the refunding of the public debt.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes, you have some other new matters in it. You have a bimetallic provision in it, I am sure, that was not in the bill when it passed this House, and that certainly raises a very broad question.

Mr. OVERSTREET. That, I will say, has so little in it that I imagine there will be very little desire for discussion of it.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The gentleman concedes that that is unimportant, then.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I say to you very frankly that I think it is of very little importance.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Well, we want to show that by the discussion. But that is by the way. We should like to have at least four hours on this side.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I will say to the gentleman that inasmuch as full discussion was had before, and as there is not a great deal of new matter, I feel that very little time is necessary for further discussion. I should very much like to dispose of it to-morrow.

Mr. McRAE. I wish to ask the gentleman from Indiana for an opportunity to occupy some time on this bill. I was not present, on account of sickness, and not able to discuss the bill when it passed the House, and desire to do so when the report of the conferees is presented.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I do not hear the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. McRAE. I wanted to ask the gentleman for an opportunity to discuss the bill. I was not able, when it was before the House, to take part in the discussion, and while I have been granted leave to print, I have not yet availed myself of that privilege and very much prefer to say what I have prepared before the report is voted upon. I would like to discuss this report, and was promised by the Democratic conferee on the part of the House such time as he could secure for me. As he is absent on account of sickness, I wish to appeal to the gentleman from Indiana to give me at least thirty minutes on the bill. Some of the data I have prepared I will print as an appendix under the former leave granted me.

Mr. OVERSTREET. Mr. Speaker, I was not insisting this morning on fixing any particular limit to the discussion or when a vote shall be taken; but simply desired to bring the matter before the House, with the understanding that at the earliest possible moment I would like to dispose of it. I have stated already that I should be glad, if possible, to take it up to-morrow immediately after the election case, but will not ask the House now to fix any time or say absolutely that it will be considered to-morrow. I will confer with gentlemen on the other side later in the day, with the hope that some satisfactory arrangement may be arrived at, always with the understanding that no prolonged delay in the consideration of the bill will be had.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The gentleman will understand, of course, that the conferee representing this side of the House has been ill ever since the bill went into conference, and is now absent at a health resort, and it puts us at considerable disadvantage in coming to an agreement. We hope the gentleman will therefore give sufficient time in order that the question may be fully discussed on this side of the House. We want at least four hours on our side.

Mr. OVERSTREET. Mr. Speaker, I can not promise now that such a length of time will be given.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Well, we will insist upon that and ask the House to give it to us.

Mr. OVERSTREET. I just wanted to have the matter brought up before the House and let it lie upon the Speaker's table for the present. The question of the length of time to be allowed for the discussion will come up hereafter.

DEATH OF HON. ALFRED C. HARMER.

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is more than a sad duty, and certainly most painful to me, personally, to announce to the House the decease of my esteemed and loved colleague, the Hon. ALFRED C. HARMER, late a member of Congress from the State of Pennsylvania.

He was recognized, as of right, "the Father of the House," by reason of long-continued service, and not only that, but was also esteemed the father of the House, because of the affection and high regard that the members of this body held for him.

It is not my purpose at this time to make any extended remarks, but I would feel that I was doing far less than my affection calls for if I did not say a few words in tribute to the deceased.

ALFRED C. HARMER was born in 1825 in Germantown, now a part of the city of Philadelphia. From his twenty-first year he commenced his public service as a representative of his people, and until the day of his death, with but few years of intermission, he continued their representative, either in the councils of the city, in offices of trust, or as a member of this body.

He died in the same community in which he was born and among the people who, for more than half a century, loved and honored him personally and held him in such high esteem and confidence that only death could sever their close relations.

He was one of a marked group of four men whom the city of Philadelphia sent to the American Congress, men most exceptional in their usefulness and years of service to the people of their own home constituencies, as well as to their State and the nation.

I desire, before offering the resolutions which I shall send to the Clerk's desk, to group together the names of those four members whose record to-day belongs to the whole country and for whose memory the people of Philadelphia have especial affection: Judge W. D. Kelley, who was elected to 15 Congresses and who served twenty-nine years; Mr. Charles O'Neill, who also was elected to 15 Congresses and served twenty-nine years; Mr. Samuel J. Randall, who was elected to 14 Congresses and served twenty-seven years; and our colleague just deceased, Mr. A. C. HARMER, who likewise was elected to 14 Congresses and served twenty-seven years; in all, one hundred and twelve years of service given by those four distinguished dead—a record unparalleled in the history of the country.

At a later date I shall ask the House to assign a day for memorial services in honor of our dead colleague. I offer the resolutions which I now send to the Clerk's desk.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with deep regret and profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. ALFRED C. HARMER, for twenty-seven years a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania, and the senior member of this House in time of continuous service.

Resolved, That a committee of 15 members of the House, with such members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral at Philadelphia, and that the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of the following committee in pursuance of the resolutions just adopted:

Mr. BINGHAM, Mr. ADAMS, Mr. YOUNG of Pennsylvania, Mr. McALEER, Mr. DALZELL, Mr. BROSIUS, Mr. WANGER, Mr. BUTLER, Mr. KETCHAM, Mr. McCLEARY, Mr. BABCOCK, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. CATCHINGS, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. FITZGERALD of Massachusetts.

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to our deceased colleague, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p. m.), the House adjourned.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Under clause 2 of Rule XIII, bills and resolutions of the following titles were severally reported from committees, delivered to the Clerk, and referred to the several Calendars therein named, as follows:

Mr. ESCH, from the Committee on the Public Lands, to which was referred the bill of the Senate (S. 793) providing for the adjustment of the swamp-land grant to the State of Wisconsin, and

for other purposes, reported the same without amendment, accompanied by a report (No. 548); which said bill and report were referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KNOX, from the Committee on the Territories, to which was referred the bill of the Senate (S. 222) to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii, reported the same with amendment, accompanied by a report (No. 549); which said bill and report were referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Under clause 2 of Rule XIII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were severally reported from committees, delivered to the Clerk, and referred to the Committee of the Whole House, as follows:

Mr. SULLOWAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, to which was referred the bill of the Senate (S. 3129) granting an increase of pension to Henry McMillen, reported the same without amendment, accompanied by a report (No. 546); which said bill and report were referred to the Private Calendar.

Mr. JENKINS, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred the bill of the House (H. R. 7479) for the relief of John A. Narjes, of Washington, D. C., reported the same without amendment, accompanied by a report (No. 547); which said bill and report were referred to the Private Calendar.

CHANGE OF REFERENCE.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXII, committees were discharged from the consideration of bills of the following titles; which were thereupon referred as follows:

A bill (H. R. 9210) to remove the charge of desertion and grant an honorable discharge to John Leisure—Committee on War Claims discharged, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

A bill (H. R. 9180) granting an increase of pension to Nathaniel L. Colson—Committee on Pensions discharged, and referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

PUBLIC BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND MEMORIALS INTRODUCED.

Under clause 3 of Rule XXII, bills, resolutions, and memorials of the following titles were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. EDDY: A bill (H. R. 9244) extending the provisions of section 2301 of the Revised Statutes of the United States to homestead settlers on the ceded Indian reservation in Minnesota—to the Committee on the Public Lands.

By Mr. SHAFROTH: A bill (H. R. 9245) to segregate from public lands certain tracts on which are situated ancient houses and ruins and to provide protection for these—to the Committee on the Public Lands.

By Mr. SHACKLEFORD: A bill (H. R. 9246) for improvement of Missouri River at Overton, Mo.—to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9247) for improvement of Osage River in Missouri—to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9248) for the improvement of the Missouri River in Callaway County, Mo.—to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9249) for improvement of Gasconade River in Missouri—to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED.

Under clause 1 of Rule XXII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. ALLEN of Mississippi: A bill (H. R. 9250) for the relief of Milton Crawford—to the Committee on War Claims.

By Mr. BROWN: A bill (H. R. 9251) to remove the charge of desertion from the military record of Edward Furgison—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9252) to remove the charge of desertion and disloyalty from the military record of Joseph Shuman—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9253) to remove the charge of desertion from the military record of Arthur B. Spader, late a private of Company B, Fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Cavalry—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. BAILEY of Texas (by request): A bill (H. R. 9254) for the relief of the heirs of James C. Lipscomb—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also (by request), a bill (H. R. 9255) granting a pension to Mrs. Mason Posey—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. COX: A bill (H. R. 9256) for the relief of the estate of Mrs. E. M. Booker, deceased, late of Columbia, Tenn.—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9257) for the relief of the estate of N. E. Perkins, deceased, late of Williamson County, Tenn.—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9258) for the relief of the trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of Pulaski, Tenn.—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9259) for the relief of W. S. Reid, administrator of Mrs. F. M. Harris, deceased, late of Franklin, Tenn.—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9260) for the relief of H. J. Brewer, of Wayne County, Tenn.—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9261) for the relief of F. M. Fitzgerald, administrator of the estate of John Chandler, deceased, late of Maury County, Tenn.—to the Committee on War Claims.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9262) for the relief of Alexander Bennett—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9263) to remove the charge of desertion from the military record of John Jones—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. DE ARMOND (by request): A bill (H. R. 9264) granting a pension to Napoleon B. Smith—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9265) for the relief of Elida J. Davis, widow of Capt. Freeman Davis, deceased—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9266) granting an increase of pension to James H. Caldwell—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. DAVIS: A bill (H. R. 9267) for the relief of Ed. W. Ramage—to the Committee on Claims.

By Mr. FREER: A bill (H. R. 9268) to pension Christiana Rogers—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9269) to pension Miss Olie Heaton, dependent daughter—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. HENRY of Mississippi: A bill (H. R. 9270) for the relief of the estate of Thomas S. Mabon, deceased, late of Hinds County, Miss.—to the Committee on War Claims.

By Mr. KETCHAM: A bill (H. R. 9271) to remove the charge of desertion against Charles Schaupp, alias Phillip Schaupp, and authorizing his honorable discharge—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. LLOYD (by request): A bill (H. R. 9272) granting a pension to Solomon J. McMillen—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9273) granting a pension to Mrs. Jane Baker, widow of Johnson Baker, deceased—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. LIVINGSTON: A bill (H. R. 9274) for the relief of estate of Margaret Barge, deceased, late of Campbell County, Ga.—to the Committee on War Claims.

By Mr. SHACKLEFORD: A bill (H. R. 9275) appropriating \$5,000 to widow of late R. P. Bland—to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. YOUNG of Pennsylvania: A bill (H. R. 9276) for the relief of William Congdon—to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

By Mr. ZIEGLER: A bill (H. R. 9277) to increase the pension of Michael G. Lawrence, of Company C, Two hundred and second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

Also, a bill (H. R. 9278) to remove the charge of desertion from the military record of George W. Cook—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of Rule XXII, the following petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

By Mr. BARNEY: Petition of O. H. Gulick, H. E. Coleman, and three other members of a committee, Rev. J. Kekahuna and numerous natives of the Hawaiian Islands, urging the enactment of a clause in the Hawaiian constitution forbidding the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors and a prohibition of gambling and the opium trade—to the Committee on the Territories.

By Mr. BARTLETT: Petition of Carpenters' Union No. 144, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, of Macon, Ga., favoring House bill preventing the transportation of prison-made goods—to the Committee on Labor.

By Mr. BINGHAM: Resolutions of the National Board of Trade, commending the Paris Exposition, the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, N. Y., in 1901, Ohio Exposition at Toledo, Ohio, in 1902, and the World's Exposition at St. Louis, Mo., in 1903—to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Also, resolution of the National Board of Trade, urging the immediate construction of the Nicaragua Canal—to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Also, resolution of the National Board of Trade, urging the early completion of the system of contract improvements, by locks and dams, upon the Ohio River—to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

Also, resolution of the National Board of Trade, commending the banking and currency bill—to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Also, resolutions of the National Board of Trade, urging the consolidation of several Government bureaus relating to forestry and the preservation of forests—to the Committee on the Public Lands.

Also, joint memorial of the maritime, commercial, and trade organizations of Philadelphia, Pa., urging liberal appropriations for the support of the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department—to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. BRENNER: Petitions of L. G. Gould, of Eaton, and F. N. Plessinger, of Germantown, Ohio, against the passage of House bill No. 6071—to the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads.

By Mr. BURKETT: Petition and papers to accompany House bill No. 6094, granting a pension to Mary A. Ellis—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. BURLISON: Petition of T. M. Yett, Rudolph Ebeling, R. L. Lacey, and other ranchmen and stock raisers in the State of Texas, favoring Government distribution of blackleg vaccine—to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FREER: Papers and evidence in support of House bill granting a pension to Olie Heaton—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. GAMBLE: Petition of C. J. Lavery, publisher of the Fairplay, of Fort Pierre, S. Dak., against the passage of House bill No. 6071, relating to second-class mail matter—to the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads.

By Mr. GRAHAM: Petition of the American-German League of Western Pennsylvania, Max Kurniker, secretary, Pittsburg, Pa., urging that the Government of the United States use its friendly offices to bring about a cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and the South African republics—to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Also, resolutions of the Erie County Pharmaceutical Association, of Buffalo, N. Y., for the repeal of the stamp tax on medicines, perfumery, and cosmetics—to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREENE of Massachusetts: Resolution of the Boston Associated Board of Trade, in favor of the establishment of the department of commerce and industries—to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH: Medical certificate to accompany House bill No. 3784, granting an increase of pension to Lindsay C. Jones—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. JOY: Petition of A. H. Foote and 10 other members of the St. Louis Credit Men's Association, favoring amendment of bankruptcy law and opposing repeal—to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Also, papers to accompany House bill granting a pension to Caroline Brune—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. KETCHAM: Petition of Robert Welsh and other citizens of Coleman Station, N. Y., for a law subjecting food and dairy products to the laws of the State or Territory into which they are imported—to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

By Mr. LLOYD: Petition of T. A. Day and others, of Kaseyville, Mo., for the relief of Jane Baker—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. LONG: Petition of W. P. Morrison, of Sterling, Kans., against the passage of House bill No. 6071, relating to second-class mail matter—to the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads.

Also, petitions of Gem Drug Company and others, of Medicine Lodge; Bixby & Lindsay, of McPherson; H. O. Harris and 51 others, of Mount Hope; J. A. Foster and Charles Roberts, of Marquette, Kans., for the repeal of the stamp tax on medicines, perfumery, and cosmetics—to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NAPHEN: Petition of the graduate nurses in the State of Massachusetts, favoring the passage of House bill No. 6879, relating to the employment of graduate women nurses in the hospital service of the United States Army—to the Committee on Military Affairs.

By Mr. STARK: Paper to accompany House bill No. 3960, granting a pension to John Fisher, of Wilber, Nebr.—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

By Mr. ZIEGLER: Petition and affidavits in support of House bill for increase of pension to Michael G. Lawrence, of Company C, Two hundred and second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry—to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, March 8, 1900.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. W. H. MILBURN, D. D.

The Secretary proceeded to read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings, when, on motion of Mr. RAWLINS, and by unanimous consent, the further reading was dispensed with.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Journal will stand approved.

RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. RAWLINS. Mr. President, I desire to give notice that on Monday next, after the routine morning business, I will submit some remarks, if convenient to the Senate, on our relations with the Philippines.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. H. L. OVERSTREET, one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker of the House had signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution; and they were thereupon signed by the President pro tempore:

A bill (S. 282) extending the time for the completion of the bridge across the East River, between the city of New York and Long Island, now in course of construction, as authorized by the act of Congress approved March 3, 1887;

A bill (S. 3266) authorizing the health officer of the District of Columbia to issue a permit for the removal of the remains of the late Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord from Oak Hill Cemetery, District of Columbia, to the United States National Cemetery at Arlington, Va.; and

A joint resolution (H. J. Res. 170) providing for the acquisition of certain lands in the State of California.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States; which was read, and referred to the Committee on Printing:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of Agriculture on the work and expenditures of the agricultural experiment stations established under the act of Congress of March 2, 1887, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, in accordance with the act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the said fiscal year.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, March 8, 1900.

VISITORS TO ANNAPOLIS.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore appointed Mr. HANNA and Mr. TILLMAN members of the Board of Visitors on the part of the Senate to attend the next annual examination of cadets at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., under the requirements of the act of February 14, 1879.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Mr. PLATT of New York presented a petition of the Machinists' Protective Association of Buffalo, N. Y., praying for the enactment of legislation relative to the employment of enlisted men in competition with civilian machinists; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

He also presented a petition of 53 citizens of New York City, praying for the establishment of an Army veterinary corps; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

He also presented a petition of the Riverside Republican Club, of New York City, praying for the enactment of legislation in relation to our trade with China; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

He also presented petitions of Local Lodge No. 245, International Association of Machinists, of Buffalo; of Columbus Lodge, No. 401, International Association of Machinists, of Brooklyn, and of Local Lodge No. 421, International Association of Machinists, of Elmira, all in the State of New York, praying for the enactment of legislation to increase the salaries of machinists in the United States Government Printing Office, at Washington, D. C.; which were referred to the Committee on Printing.

He also presented memorials of the Health Culture, of New York City; the New York Education, of Albany; the Homeopathic Eye, Ear, and Throat Journal, of New York City; the Citizen, of Allegany; the Hobart Herald, and the Daily News, the Free Press, and the Regulator, of Cohoes, all in the State of New York, remonstrating against the passage of the so-called Loud bill, relating to second-class mail matter; which were referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads.

Mr. COCKRELL presented memorials of the Republican, of Lamar; the Democrat, of Dearborn; the Democrat, of Monroe City; the Democrat, of Lamar; the School and Home, of St. Louis; the Chief, of Cowgill; the National Land News, of Green Ridge; the Enterprise, of Liberal; the Commercial Lawyer, of St. Louis,